

REPORT
ON
NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE
Week ending the 29th September 1877.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
Monthly.				
1	" Bhárat Shramjibí "	Baráhanagar ...	4,000	
2	" Rajshahye Sambád "	Rajshahye ...	.....
3	" Grámbártá Prakáshiká "	Comercolly ...	200	
4	" Arya Pratibhá "	Bhowanipore ...	.....
Weekly.				
5	" Banga Hitaishí "	Bhowanipore ...	.....	17th September 1877.
6	" Bishwa Dút "	Táligunj, Calcutta ..	.....	19th ditto.
7	" Bishwa Suhrid "	Mymensingh ...	450	
8	" Bhárat Mihir "	Do. ...	658	20th ditto.
9	" Bhárat Sangskárák "	Calcutta ...	.....	17th ditto.
10	" Bengal Advertiser "	Do. ...	.....
11	" Dacca Prakásh "	Dacca ...	400	16th ditto.
12	" Education Gazette "	Hooghly ...	1,168	21st ditto.
13	" Moorshedabad Pratinidhi "	Berhampore ...	.....	14th ditto.
14	" Pratikár "	Do. ...	235	
15	" Grámbártá Prakáshiká "	Comercolly ...	200	22nd ditto.
16	" Sambád Bháskar "	Calcutta ...	.....	24th ditto.
17	" Sulabha Samáchár "	Do ...	5,500	22nd ditto.
18	" Sádharaní "	Chinsurah ...	516	16th ditto.
19	" Hindu Hitaishiní "	Dacca ...	300	
20	" Soma Prakásh "	Bhowanipore ...	700	24th ditto.
21	" Sahachar "	Calcutta ...	.....	17th ditto.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
	BENGALI—(Continued).			
	<i>Weekly—(Continued).</i>			
22	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Bauleah, Rajshahye	.....	19th September 1877.
23	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ...	Kákinia, Rungpore	250	20th ditto.
24	"Burdwan Pracháriká"	Burdwan	165	
	<i>Daily.</i>			
25	"Sambád Prabhákar"	Calcutta	550	13th to 25th September.
26	"Sambád Púrnachandrodaya" ...	Do.	.....	20th, 21st, 24th & 25th Sept.
27	"Samáchar Chandriká"	Do.	.....	24th September.
28	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" ...	Do.	652	20th to 26th September.
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
29	"Amrita Bazar Patriká"	Do.	2,217	20th September.
30	"Howrah Hitakarí"	Bethar, Howrah	300	16th and 23rd September.
31	"Moorshedabad Patriká"	Berhampore	.....	21st September.
32	"Burrisal Bártábaha"	Burrisal	300	
	ENGLISH AND URDU.			
33	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	400	22nd ditto.
	URDU.			
	<i>Bi-monthly.</i>			
34	"Akhhár-ul-Akhiár"	Mozufferpore	.....
	HINDI.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
35	"Behár Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna...	509	26th ditto.
	PERSIAN.			
36	"Jám-Jahán-numá"	Calcutta	250	28th ditto.

INDIAN AND FOREIGN POLITICS.

IN writing of the two parties of spectators, the *Turko-phils* and the *Russo-phils*, the editor of the *Urdu Guide* remarks that, it is but natural the Muhammadans, who are of one nationality with the Turks, should feel elated at their successes; though at the same time it is a matter of surprise to see those who have no such connecting link, nor are in any way concerned with Russia, wearying their very lives on behalf of that power. This class were at first quite certain that Russia would subdue the Turks; and now that the former have been defeated, they, with the same sweet tongue, assert that, of a certainty the Turks are very brave and the Russians cowards; but that, although the Turks have beaten them so repeatedly, the latter are not outdone; moreover, it is an easy thing to strike, but quite another and a very difficult thing patiently to endure. Be this as it may, God alone knows what the result may be, yet it can be safely asserted that "tyranny comes to a bad end." Laws, divine and human, prove that justice will triumph and injustice be defeated. Look at the worse than useless slaughter of lives now going on, to say nothing of the atrocities reported by newspaper correspondents. It sometimes does happen that good is overcome of evil, but this can only be for a time, to carry out the designs of God, who will evolve good and prevent harm; as the result of every act done, must be judged by the intent of the actor. The Russians are but temporary guests in Bulgaria, and their officers must show that they have been doing something.

URDU GUIDE,
September 22nd, 1877.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

2. The *Sádháraní*, of the 16th September, has an article headed the "Epidemic fever in Bally owing to obstructed drainage." After reviewing the proceedings of the Commission appointed to investigate the subject, and the two conflicting memorials made to Government by the rate-payers of Bally, and the orders of the Lieutenant-Governor thereon, the editor advises the memorialists to lay their grievances before the Government of India, in a well written petition, which should contain a full account of the matter, and remarks, "Truth to tell, our confidence in the Government of Bengal has greatly diminished."

SADHARANI,
September 1 6th, 1877

3. Under the heading of "A youthful folly and its consequences," the same paper dwells on the inadequacy of the punishment awarded to Heenan, lately tried in the High Court on a charge of murder. Adverting to the sentence of eighteen months' imprisonment, it is remarked, ironically, that we shall henceforth learn to believe that such punishment proves sufficient in the case of European offenders, and teaches them the lesson required.

SADHARANI.

4. The same paper complains that the number of subjects, appointed for the vernacular and minor scholarship examinations, is exceedingly large. The rapidity, with which the authorities move in these matters, makes it probable that the list will soon be completed by the addition of the few subjects that still remain. The old system, under which the Divisional Inspectors fixed the standards in literature, was better than the present. Really useful vernacular works also, by competent native writers, were then prescribed. Things have, however, changed, since the matter was left to the Book Committee. Works of native authors are not now selected, when books on the same subject by Europeans exist, as for instance those by Watt, Roscoe, and Lethbridge.

SADHARANI.

Text-books for the vernacular and minor scholarship examinations.

Much good will accrue, if, instead of these, the members of the School Book Committee, prescribe the books of Babus Jadu Náth and Kánye Lál and Bhúdeb, on the same subjects. The former, owing to the faulty language in which they are written, are not at all adapted for the vernacular scholarship examination.

DACCA PRAKASH,
September 16th, 1877.

5. Adverting to the increase of salary proposed by the Director of Public Instruction on behalf of native school masters, the *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 16th September, suggests that teachers of the Normal and Model and Circle Schools also should be allowed the same benefit. The latter are extremely overworked, and have for a long time past remained on a low scale of pay.

DACCA PRAKASH.

6. The Bogra correspondent of the same paper writes: Mr. Coxhead, the Magistrate, has taken three months' leave. He is a man of such an overbearing disposition, that his return to this district is not desired by any. He regaled the ears of many with such sweet words as "Shooyárér báchchá," or a pig. He was never wanting in pouring honey into the ears of the officers subordinate to him.

BANGA HITAIISHI,
September 17th, 1877.

7. We take the following from the opening editorial in the *Banga Hitaishi*, of the 17th September, headed the "State of the country and politics:"—What changes have taken place since the day the English set foot in India! Ignorance has all but disappeared, and the light of knowledge is illumining the hearts of the people. Roads, railways, and the telegraph attest the altered state of things. Distant places have been brought, as it were, nearer to each other. Education has spread; and the knowledge of the people having increased by means of study, they are now found to discuss topics of political and social importance. The long dormant energies of the Hindu race are now awakened.

But amidst all these changes, the principles of Indian Administration continue the same as they were a hundred years back. The rule introduced by the British authorities at a time when it was an article of the popular creed that the "Lord of Delhi is the Lord of the world," continues to this day, although a large portion of the people now follow the doctrines of Bentham. The same policy, of sucking and draining the resources of the country to increase the happiness and prosperity of England, is still in force.

The principle, which governed the action of the East India Company, when they demanded of Nawab Mir Cossim the exemption of British merchandise from all duties of customs, which were at the same time to be compulsory in the case of native merchants, continues to shape their policy to this hour. On the strength of this principle too Manchester has won her case. Even to this moment, the British are perfectly extravagant in their expenditure in order to promote the good of England and Englishmen; but the plea of political economy is always advanced, whenever there is anything to be done for the benefit of this country. It would, indeed, be well if the principles of this science were consistently carried out in all cases. But while political economy stands in the way of the Rulers, whenever there is exportation of corn to be prohibited from any place threatened with famine, when prices are to be lowered, or relief is to be granted to the famine-stricken who are incapable of work;—no such difficulty crops up if, at the instance of the

British manufacturer or trader, the way is to be made clear for the destruction of any native industry, or if, in place of the income tax abolished to benefit the European merchant and the high-paid British officer, a road or a public works cess is to be imposed. Nor are the principles of political economy ever attended to, when there is any monopoly of some lucrative business to be granted to the British merchant. Europeans frequently say that there is no native public opinion. Whatever may be the case elsewhere, this is perfectly unreasonable when applied to Bengal—where there is hardly a single flourishing town which has not its newspaper—recognized as the representative of the inhabitants and supported by them. The Metropolitan newspapers also are read with avidity by the people in the mofussil. Then there are the Associations, with the working and object of which they fully sympathize. These conclusively show that there is a native public opinion, however it may be ignored by the rulers. It is to be regretted that the natives continue to be as much distrusted as ever. They are all but excluded from the high appointments in the public service, on the plea that they have not yet become fit to hold them, in spite of the proved ability of native civilians and the native judges of the High Court. They have no opportunities given them for the display of their talents; otherwise there would be found many like Babu Nílámbar Mookerjee of Kashmere. We sincerely desire the good of the British Government; and therefore ask that, by reforming the principles of Indian Administration, Government should treat with impartiality all classes of the people.

8. The *Bhārat Sangskārak*, of the 17th September, writes the following in one of its editorial paragraphs:—The pious and peaceful Judge of Sylhet was one Sunday

The Judge of Sylhet.

morning going to church, when he saw a native standing on the road side and gargling with water. This heated the brains of the Judge, who attacked the man and gave him a sound beating. Excellent! Perhaps on going to church the following prayer was offered up—"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us."

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
September 17th, 1877.

9. The following is the substance of an article, in the same paper, headed "High Education and the North-Western Provinces." The abolition of the Delhi College and of the English Department

The reasons why Government is hostile to high education.

of the Benares College are probably indications of a deep laid policy of our rulers. Sir George Campbell once sought to shake this edifice of high education in Bengal; but he failed, owing to the strong opposition made by the natives of the province. The people of the North-Western Provinces will now be made a victim. We always regard the abolition of high education in the same light as placing a bar in the way of a nation's progress. The question, however, arises, What interest has Government in doing this? We shall endeavour to show the reasons of its conduct in this respect—1st, the prevalence of high education in the country enables the natives to study the histories of England, France, and America; and learn the causes which have brought about glory and independence. Thus, also do they acquire, unconsciously, notions of liberty and greatness. 2nd, with an increase of the feeling of self-respect and a desire of personal liberty, a disposition manifests itself to criticise the acts of Government in an independent spirit. 3rd, high education enables the natives of the different provinces of India mutually to communicate their thoughts with facility. The effect of this circumstance on the more warlike races of the country cannot but excite a corresponding feeling of independence in their minds; and this is unquestionably a matter of anxiety

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK.

with a foreign Government. The latter might well afford to ignore the declamation of the Bengalis, a physically weak race; but it is their interest to see that the Mahrattas and Sikhs remain quiet and effortless; and this result can only be secured by a discontinuance of high education. The editor then proceeds to dwell upon the good which has accrued to Bengal from the spread of education among its inhabitants.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
September 17th, 1877.

10. The same paper agrees with Lord Northbrook, in holding that a famine should be dealt with in the same way as a war, in which success being the only object kept in view, there is no attention paid to the question of expense. It therefore behoves Government at the present crisis to strain every nerve to relieve the distress, at whatever cost to the public.

A famine should be met in the same spirit as a war.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK.

11. A correspondent of the same paper complains that Baboo Nanda Kishore Dás, who does not possess the requisite qualifications, having been only a student in the Entrance class, has been appointed Joint Inspector of Schools in Orissa; while Baboo Chaturbhuj Puttanáyak, B.A., also an Oorya, occupies the humbler post of Sub-Deputy Inspector. In justice they should change places. The attention of the Lieutenant-Governor is asked to the subject.

The cases of Nanda Kishore Dás and Chaturbhuj Puttanáyak, B.A.

SAHACHAR,
September 17th, 1877.

12. The *Sahachar*, of the 17th September, is gratified to learn that the authorities of the Calcutta University have at length directed their attention to the subject of text-books in Bengali prescribed for the Entrance Examination. A change in this respect has become exceedingly necessary; for the books which have been in use for the last 20 years, are not suited to the present time. It is to be regretted that Sanskrit has almost ceased to be a subject in the higher examinations of the University. In the matriculation, the standard in Sanskrit should be altered to some extent; at least the book prescribed at present, Rijupáth, Part III, should be improved by the insertion in it of extracts from Raghuvansha. An original Sanskrit Grammar should also be substituted for the elementary treatise *Upakramaniká* by Vidyáságara.

Text-books in Sanskrit and Bengali for the University Examinations.

BISHWA DUT,
September 19th, 1877.

13. The *Bishwa Dút*, of the 19th September, contains an article headed the "Indian Government and the Freedom of the Press":—It is remarked, a little reflection will show that, owing to the faults of both

The Native Press.

Government and the newspapers, the great boon of a free press has been abused in India, and failed to produce the desired good. The newspapers published in this country represent different conflicting interests, and are always anxious to show up the faults of their contemporaries. They contradict and oppose each other; and thus fail to carry any weight with Government. Another reason of their inefficiency is to be found in the narrow policy pursued by the rulers towards them. No heed is paid to their writings; nay, oftentimes acts are done quite contrary to their wishes; as for instance, by promoting an officer whose faults may have been exposed in their columns. Dissatisfaction is expressed with newspapers if they ever write against the officers of Government; and thus, instead of regarding the press as an ally, Government looks upon it as an enemy and despise it. Hence many intelligent men are of opinion that the freedom of the press in India is only a farce.

BHARAT MIHIR,
September 20th, 1877.

14. We extract the following observations from the opening editorial of the *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 20th September:—Since Native newspapers and Government have one and the same object in view, and equally desire the

good of the public, albeit in different ways, why is it that there is disagreement between them? We shall endeavour to answer this question by and

The reason why there is disagreement between Government and the Native Press.

by. There are several reasons why, in comparison with Muhammadan rulers, we call Englishmen gods; and respect the British Government, while we blame the days of Muhammadan rule a hundred times over. The chief of these is, the difference in their respective principles of administration. While the policy of the British Government is broad, elevated, and noble, that of the Muhammadans was narrow and sordid. With the latter, the chief object of Government was the gratification of selfish pleasures, in total indifference to the good or evil which might thus accrue to the people. The British, on the contrary, have, ever since the day on which they set foot in India, announced their desire to increase the prosperity of the country, relieve the misery of the people, and to introduce order and good government among them. Their words, resolutions, and laws have subsequently given effect to these liberal sentiments. Having this circumstance in view, a comparison of the state of India with that of other countries has induced a quite unprecedented feeling in the minds of educated natives. They cannot now understand that Government is anything distinct from the people. We have forgotten all about the days of Muhammadan rule; the past has gone out of our minds. The despotism of the *Padshahs* no longer finds a place in our memories. By Government, we do not now understand anything else than the representatives of the people. A Government or a King is necessary to exercise the collective powers of a people, who would not otherwise individually succeed in any great undertaking. A Government or a King, therefore, occupies the position of a trustee with reference to the public, and has no other existence except as such. Government cannot blame us for thinking thus; for we have learnt such views from the policy which it has itself announced. A native paper is born with these sentiments, and asks, as soon as it is ushered into existence, how far Government has acted up to its policy and its pledge? And what does it find in response to this query? It sees that, in many respects, the action of the British Government does not come up to its professions; that the principles it has enunciated, and the pledge it has given have in many instances been violated in practice. So that an endeavour to benefit the people was seen to be the promotion of British interests, and the increase of India's prosperity, an addition to England's wealth. The spectacle disappointed the Editors of Native Papers, and they were more pained by subsequent events which need not be mentioned in this place. A heart heavy with sorrow, and the dejected countenance of the educated native plainly tell us what these are.

We would not have written thus, were we not well wishers of Government. It is neither our desire nor our habit to practise hypocrisy. As a friend we unburdened our hearts to Government in all sincerity, and, as a reward, Mr. Eden stabbed us in the heart with a sharp knife. The sight is not new in this world. If, superior to the temptation of furthering British interests, Government had sought to do good to the country with the same earnestness as the native newspapers, there would have been no disagreement between the two.

15. Adverting to the approaching visit of the Commissioner of Dacca to Mymensingh, for the purpose of convening a meeting of the landlords and others to consider the means of constructing a railway to the district, the same paper writes as

A Railway in Mymensingh.

BHARAT MIHIE.
September 20th, 1877.

follows :—A hundred thanks to Mr. Eden, the Commissioner, and the Magistrate for their efforts to improve the condition of Mymensingh. Should their exertions be persistent, the proposed measure will soon be an accomplished fact.

BHARAT MIHIR,
September 20th, 1877.

16. The same paper thus writes in reference to the discontinuance of the *Samáj Darpan* :—We would call him false, who should say that there is not the least spark of discontent in this country ; that here no one is sad ; that all are contented and happy ; and that no one has any objection to offer to the acts of Government.

The Native Press.

Such a person would not be a true friend to the State. What is the use of a newspaper, which misrepresents the real state of things to the public and Government ? Why should it be called the mouth-piece of the people, if it were not allowed to lay before the rulers all its grievances ? How often are we to write that the British are our benefactors ? How often shall we vex the loyalty by a reference to every thing that shows its sincerity ? Before taking upon himself to reprove us, Mr. Eden should first set his own house in order. What heart will not be pained to see the spectacle of educated natives crying for want of food, while every month batches of Englishmen, fresh from England, are taking possession of all the appointments in the public service ? Or what political economy is this, that would sanction the retention in the service of highly paid Europeans, while famine and destitution raged in the land, and people groaned under the burden of taxation ? Why should Moula Bux be hanged for an offence, for which a Heenan receives only 18 months' imprisonment ? Why should Surendra Nath be dismissed for a fault, which was a hundredth part lighter than that, for which a Jack or John receives promotion ? That you should despise me as a worthless thing not to be touched, while I should worship you with flowers and sandalwood, is a thing which nature never heard before. Although worthless, we are no barbarians, and are able to appreciate the good which the British have done us. It is possible that no conquered people ever received such liberal treatment at the hands of their conquerors as we obtain from the British ; but shall we therefore say that they are impartial, that they act according to their professions ? Shall we, therefore, be blind to the injustice and wrong that may be committed by them, and not cry when a Fuller strikes ? Shall we not give publicity to any instance of miscarriage of justice ? We publish such cases, only in the hope that Government will redress our wrongs ; and our conduct would not have been construed into sedition, had we not been a subject people. For our sincere devotion to Her Majesty, we have at length obtained a certificate of disloyalty. Mr. Eden has not done a meritorious act by thus wounding the feelings of a people by his reproof.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
September 20th, 1877.

17. Adverting to the case of Dookha Gooree *versus* the District Superintendent of Police of Maldah, the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 20th September, observes :

Compared with this, the dog case of Rajshahye, the Fennuah cases, the embankment case of Maldah, and even the Fuller case sinks into insignificance. The people indeed shed tears when they read of the cruel treatment of Rájchandra Dás at the hands of Mr. D'Oyly, the Magistrate of Rajshahye ; still there was something to be said on his behalf. It was a pet dog of his wife which Rájchandra was reported to have killed, and what Mr. D'Oyly did was but natural under the circumstances ; and he would not have perhaps been so much taken to task for this, if he had not been a Magistrate. Even Mr. Kirkwood, whose name has become a household word for an oppressive Magistrate, did only what every Magistrate does in one form or another. The Fennuah cases will appear

but light to him who has heard of the Meherpore rape case. Mr. Haggard's recent judgment, in the case of a Muhammadan, is also of this description. In criminal cases in this country, where a native is the plaintiff and a European the defendant, especially in those of house-burning, plundering, &c., though not murder, between ryots and the indigo-planters, it is not an uncommon thing for the parties to change places in the end; the plaintiff becoming the defendant, and *vice versa*. Had it not been for Mr. Smith, the postman would have been put to difficulty in Meares' case; and not a few natives would have got into trouble in Steven's case, if it had not been for the fact that the police were implicated in it. And, if what was done in the embankment case by Mr. Moseley be called injustice, there is very little of justice in this country. Wherever there are indigo factories, the Magistrates are obliged to do some injustice, however little. It is said that in the Magoora sub-division, to keep up a *bund*, thousands of beeghas of grain are destroyed every year. Last year, or the year before, it was reported that much paddy had been laid under water through the carelessness of the Railway authorities. While in the Fuller case, even his enemies must admit that he did not strike his syce with the intention of killing him. If the allegations made against the District Superintendent of Police of Maldah be true, there is nothing to extenuate his guilt.

18. A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Kanchrapara, lays a series of charges against the present Deputy Magistrate of Ranaghat. These are (1) he has recently caused a boat, which had stranded on the chur near Kanchrapara, to be sold with its cargo at a nominal price. Had it been sold by public auction by the police, it would have fetched a higher value. (2) he has caused two mango trees, which stood in the compound of the sub-divisional cutcherry, to be cut down,—an act for which there was no necessity,—and sold to an employé of the local municipality at a nominal price. It is said that he again bought them of the latter. (3) he occasionally leaves his station, on private affairs, to the great inconvenience of the public. (4) owing to his having used insulting language towards the Commissioners of the local Municipality, they have in a body resigned.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
September 20th, 1877.

19. Says the *Sulabha Sámáchar*, of the 22nd September:—Heenan has been sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment. When passing the sentence the Judge gave him some sound advice. It is fortunate that it was not a case of ruptured spleen. So that there has been some punishment at least. The Judge pointed out that the jury had recommended him to mercy, for he had done the act at the spur of the moment, and when he thought himself in danger. But who ever deliberately and peacefully committed a murder? The same mercy is not, however, shown in the case of a native.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
September 22nd, 1877.

20. The same paper thus writes towards the conclusion of an article headed "The relation of subjects to their rulers is one of love." Let the British Government but love the people, both will then be happy, and there will be a sincere agreement between them. Do they not feel this, from observing the profound esteem and love in which good Englishmen are held by Natives? Should the English be unwilling to love us, with the spread of learning and civilization the natives will be their bitterest enemies. Loyalty does not spring from compulsion. The people also will suffer considerably, if they do not endeavour to love the rulers.

SULABHA SAMACHAR.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
September 22nd, 1877.

21. The *Grámbártá Prákáshiká*, of the 22nd September, protests against the proposed imposition of a license tax in Bengal. The country is poor, and cannot bear to pay it. Government has gradually come to be like the zemindars, in levying abwabs; the only difference between them being that it does on a larger scale what the others do on a limited one, and that while it is free from censure, the practice exposes the landlords to reproach.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA.

22. The same paper remarks, in reference to the proposed imposition of a Famine Tax, that it is not advisable in Government to seek to recoup the Exchequer for the outlay on the famine by means of any direct taxation, for this is extremely disliked by the people. If it is at all necessary to introduce a tax, indirect taxation should be resorted to. This may be easily done by raising the duties on salt, and imposing an excise duty on tobacco and intoxicating drugs and liquors. In the meantime, Government should ask for contributions from the public.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA.

23. A correspondent of the same paper has some appreciative remarks regarding the able administration of the Barh sub-division, by Mr. White, the officer in charge, and the Sub-Deputy Collector, Babu Bipin Behári Prámánik. Cases of oppression and false litigation have almost ceased, while there has been improvement in the condition of the roads. The writer hopes that these officers will soon receive promotion.

HOWRAH HITAKARI,
September 23rd, 1877.

24. The *Howrah Hitakari*, of the 23rd September, remarks that, although the institution of Honorary Magistracies, like that of Jurors, is a very useful one, still from the injudicious selections made, it is productive of little good. Really competent men only should be appointed as Honorary Magistrates.

SOMA PRAKASH,
September 24th, 1877.

25. The *Soma Prákásh*, of the 24th September, writes a long article on the inutility of the office of Viceroy at the present time, when the country is enjoying profound peace. It is more difficult to guide the affairs of an Empire during peace than war; for the simple reason that the people have many opportunities of attending to the administration and the public acts of the Rulers; and hence, if any faults are found, there is greater scope for the prevalence of dissatisfaction. Another cause of discontent is the constant change in the policy of Government, which occasions considerable hardship to the people. This is notoriously the case in India, where the policy of no two Viceroys has ever been the same. The Government therefore should be reconstructed on new principles, and this may be accomplished in two ways:—(1) By the establishment of an Indian Parliament, composed of representatives of the people, and (2) conducting the Government by means of Lieutenant-Governors, under the supervision of the British Parliament, through the Secretary of State, who will not under this arrangement require the aid of his Council, but will communicate directly to the Provincial Governors the wishes of Parliament. Under both views the office of Viceroy is no longer necessary, and may be abolished without injury to the public service. The advantages of the measure proposed are plain to everybody. There will be no longer any differences of opinion, as was sadly illustrated in the case of the Madras famine; while the policy of Parliament will in all likelihood be more liberal than what generally guides the Government of India, the Viceroys being under the influence of the members of their Council. It is needless to add that a considerable amount of saving will also be effected by the abolition

of the post of Viceroy, his Council, and of that of the Secretary of State. In this article, the Editor reproduces the observations made by him in his issues of the 9th and 16th July last, noticed in paragraphs 17 and 16 respectively of our Reports for the 14th and 21st idem.

26. The same paper writes as follows in an article headed "The way to gag the Native Newspapers":—Many cannot comprehend why Mr. Eden should have abused the Native Editors before a number of gentlemen who had been invited to Belvedere; while others think that His Honor has resolved to gag them. But how will he do this, unless, indeed, he takes away the freedom of the whole newspaper press, which is by no means an easy task under the British Administration? We are almost sure that the Anglo-Indian Press would not tamely submit to any order emanating from him, which interfered with their freedom; and consequently it will not do to pass one general order. It should be such as would not affect the Anglo-Indian journals, while the liberty of the vernacular prints would alone be taken away. We do not, however, believe that the British Government will be so indiscreet as to exact such an one-sided law; and should the necessity of such a measure be pointed out, they would certainly, we believe, refuse to recognize it, on the ground that, if there be any disloyalty in the Native Press, the sedition clauses of the Penal Code are sufficient to check it. But why resort to extreme measures at all, since the object aimed at can be secured by simpler means? These are: The authorities should cease to make any distinction between black and white, the native and foreigner, and the conqueror and conquered; and, whether in the court, durbar, or the Council, should always seek to regard all classes of the people with equal impartiality, enact equal laws, give them appointments of equal value according to merit and ability, and award condign punishment to high-handed Europeans, whether official or non-official. If these measures be adopted, Mr. Eden will see that the mouth of the Native Press will of itself be stopped. While Heenan has received only 18 months' imprisonment for committing murder, Jánakí Náth Roy has been sentenced to three months' incarceration in jail, and fined Rs. 20,000 for perjury. In both cases the jury recommended the accused to mercy. We ask Mr. Eden to weigh both these sentences in the scales of justice, and say if they are right. Natives were occasionally led to expect that they should be appointed District Judges. The subject has been allowed to drop through, since Mr. Eden became Lieutenant-Governor. A Magistrate, the other day, assaulted an unoffending native, whose only fault was that he was washing his mouth when that officer passed by, and did not make him salams. What punishment was ever awarded to this Magistrate? and how is it that he has been left in charge of a district?

So long as the authorities do not redress these wrongs, their utmost efforts to gag the Native Press will never be successful. Should they do this illegally and by force, another mouth will forthwith be opened. In conclusion, we respectfully ask Mr. Eden not to be angry with us. We have but given him a bit of salutary advice; which, however, according to the poet, is scarcely agreeable.

27. The *Behár Bandhu* complains of the deposition of witnesses in mutation cases not being taken before the Deputy Collectors. The head *mohurrir* hears them, contrary to the instructions of the Board's circular, and writes what he chooses.

28. A correspondent, signing himself "A disappointed teacher on a pay of Rs. 20," complains that after 12 or 13 years' good service, during which he has laboured

SOMA PRAKASH,
September 24th, 1877.

BEHAR BANDHU,
September 26th, 1877.

BEHAR BANDHU.

hard and successfully and obtained certificates, he is still in the same position, whilst one Abdur Rahim has had two rapid promotions.

LOCAL GRIEVANCES.

SADHARANI,
September 16th, 1877.

29. A correspondent of the *Sádháraní*, of the 16th September, complains that the Road Cess Funds are often misapplied. This is especially the case in the district of Hazareebagh, where, although the cess has been levied for the last four years, little good has accrued to the inhabitants. The few roads that have been constructed, have benefited Europeans more than natives. There is indeed a road cess department, and an European engineer on Rs. 300 a month, but he has hardly leisure to attend to his work.

Complaint against the working of the Road Cess Department in the Hazareebagh district.

HOWRAH HITAKARÍ,
September 16th, 1877.

30. A correspondent of the *Howrah Hitakarí*, of the 16th September, directs the attention of Government to the necessity of setting free the silted-up channel of the Káná Nadí in the Hooghly district. The inhabitants of Gopálnagar and other villages suffer extremely from the stagnation of this stream; a circumstance which accounts for the prevalence of malarious fever in these localities for the last few years, with the exception of a short time only, when water was brought into the channel from the Dámodar. It is exceedingly to be regretted that, with the Road Cess Funds at their disposal, and in spite of the repeated representations of the sufferers, Government yet remains indifferent to the matter.

The channel of the Káná Nadí should be set free.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
September 21st, 1877.

31. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 21st September, says that the Dámodar recently rose in floods and caused considerable injury to a number of villages in the Burdwan district. These destructive inundations have been common ever since the East Indian Railway Company pulled down the bunds on its western bank. It is to be regretted that, although the road and the public works cesses are levied in this district, Government yet remains indifferent to the necessity of preventing this injurious action of the river.

Floods in the Dámodar.

URDU GUIDE,
September 22nd, 1877.

32. The editor of the *Urdu Guide* regrets to learn of the great loss sustained by the villages to the south of Burdwan from the inundation of the river Dámodar, caused by the construction, by the East Indian Railway Company, of an embankment to protect their property. Thousands of dwellings have fallen, hundreds of lives been lost, countless numbers of cattle and a large quantity of grain been destroyed. The present inundation seems to have been equal to the well known one of 1230 B. S. It will be a pity if Government takes no notice of its suffering subjects here, or fails to make some kind of arrangements with the Railway Company. It is said that, if an embankment be constructed to the south and west of the Dámodar bund at a mile off from the river, the poor people will be saved such visitations as the present one, and its consequences. The inhabitants of this place never dreamt of such dangers and losses, before the construction of the Railway.

Inundation by the Dámodar.

FAMINE.

MOORSHEDABAD PRATINIDHI,
September 14th, 1877.

33. The *Moorshedabad Pratinidhi*, of the 14th September, thus writes in an editorial, headed the "Madras Famine":—It is a peculiarity of medical men, especially of British physicians, that they will not admit that a patient is

Refusal to interfere with free trade an error.

dying, or that his case is serious, so long as there is the least sign of life in him. While thousands were dying off from starvation in Orissa, the authorities continued writing in their reports, that there was neither actual distress nor the probability of any in that province; and Sir Cecil Beadon, from his mountain retreat in Darjeeling, considered his duty sufficiently discharged by simply taking notice of these statements. Lord Lytton too had, similarly, during the earlier stages of the Madras famine, contented himself with only reading the reports of Sir Richard Temple; and it was not before repeated accounts had reached him of the severity of the distress that he was induced to leave Simla for Madras. It is probable that the Viceroy will return to Simla as soon as his conferences with the Duke of Buckingham are over.

By its refusal to interfere with the course of free trade, Government has fallen into an error which has all along characterized its policy. No matter whether the people die of starvation, injury must never be done to the interests of the mercantile community. While, by undermining the permanent settlement, Government has not scrupled to bring disgrace upon the British name, for breach of faith, it finds itself unable to act contrary to the rules of civilization. We, however, do not believe that it will be at all possible to suppress the fearful famine at Madras without interfering with the course of free trade. We fail to see what advantages will accrue from a system under which able-bodied labourers will be allowed wages for their work, while grain is not offered at cheap rates. What of those that are unable to work, or of those belonging to the respectable middle classes of society, who would rather die than repair to a relief depôt? For these different reasons, we do not believe that the arrangements set on foot in Madras by Lord Lytton have been either satisfactory or adequate.

34. In an article headed "The Famine," the *Soma Prakāsh*, of the 24th September, observes that the authorities would be greatly mistaken if they ever thought that native gentlemen in the afflicted localities can afford to

SOMA PRAKASH,
September 24th, 1877.

Government should supply grain at a low price.

buy corn for themselves; and that the duty of Government would be sufficiently discharged if, by stimulating private enterprise, a steady supply of food could only be kept up. It is probably for this reason that, in the *Calcutta Gazette*, shippers and others are informed that facilities exist for landing bags of grain in Nellore and other parts of Southern India. This policy, however, although it is successful in ordinary times, is never so in periods of difficulty. Most of those natives, who belong to the respectable middle classes, cannot afford to buy corn at the high rates demanded by the merchants. Government cannot therefore do better than follow Lord Northbrook's example, and supply the people with rice at cheap rates. It will not do to adhere to the principle of non-interference with free trade when a famine is raging in the country.

35. An anonymous correspondent writes to this paper, reproaching its Editor for sitting listlessly with folded hands, whilst famine encroaches on

BEHAR BANDHU,
September 26th, 1877

The famine threatening in Behar.

Behar where rice is selling at 8 seers, *jooār* 17 seers, *dāl* 12 seers, and wheat at 31 seers.

The poor are perishing of hunger, and the Patna officials are not aware of the circumstance, being deceived by persons who court their favours, show them some gardens clothed with verdure, and assure them there is no fear of famine. The police ought to be directed to make inquiries. In the famine of 1873, when prices rose as high as they are at present, Government assisted the people. Why not do so now also? Many orders are being passed; the Gya officer has stopped the export of grain; rice is selling there at 10 and 12 seers; Dinapore,

Jaháná, and Behár have likewise made arrangements. This correspondent cannot comprehend how the Patna officials have not bestirred themselves, when nearly 300,000 reside in that city. They should set about the matter at once; else the same disturbances will take place here as have occurred at Delhi. If nothing else can be done, let the export of corn be at all events prohibited, and no one allowed to purchase more than Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 worth; this will not cost Government a *cowree*, and famine will be averted.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MOORSHEDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
September 14th, 1877.

36. The following is the substance of an article in the *Moorshedabad Pratinidhi*, of the 14th September, headed the "Love of change." Considering what the condition of the country was under Muhammadan rule, at the present time the people are in some respects as happy as they might be in heaven, while in others they are as miserable as though they were suffering the torments of hell. When we reflect on the circumstance that we have no Rajah Raj Ballabh, Nandakumar, Roy Durlabha, Omichand, or Setab Roy now living, that the British have no confidence in us, that with the exception of a few clerkships and appointments to the Judicial and Education services we are shut out from all high offices under the State, it seems to us as if we were spending our days in hell. On the other hand, the railways, the telegraph, the post office, the security of life and property, and the numerous other advantages enjoyed at the present day, bring to our minds the idea of heavenly bliss. However that might be, it is unquestionable that some of the changes introduced into this country by the British Government have been exceedingly injurious to the people. This has been especially the case with their hours of work and diet. Change in these respects has brought about a deterioration in their *physique*.

37. The *Sádháraní*, of the 16th September, contains a long account of the hardships of the middle class Bengali tenant at the present day. His ancestors were counted respectable men, and enjoyed a rude plenty from their possession of about 50 or 60 beeghas of revenue-free land. This, however, was early taken from him by the zemindar, on the plea that it was not revenue-free. He was therefore obliged to hold it of the zemindar at a rental of Rs. 3-8 a beegha. Not having received any English education—for there was none in those days—he attended the páthshálá of a guru maháshaya. But a páthshálá education being not thought much of at the present day, and a gomashanship on Rs. 5 a month being the highest position that it could secure to the owner, the tenant took to agriculture. Success, however, did not attend his efforts. Both drought and excessive rainfall in one year caused a failure of the crops; and his house was blown down in a storm. The rents, however, must be paid. He was therefore thrown back upon the little savings which had been made by his ancestors. The malarious fever now broke out to complete his misfortunes. He is now without money, and fever-stricken, and has occasionally to fast with his whole family for want of food. There are hundreds like him in every village of the Hooghly, Burdwan, and Howrah districts.

SADHARANI,
September 16th, 1877.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 29th September 1877.

JOHN ROBINSON,
Government Bengali Translator.